

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BRAZZA 01095 081111Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T BRAZZAVILLE 1095

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, CF, CG, AO, FR,CD, UR, CU
SUBJECT: YHOMBY-OPANGO COMMENTS ON ANGOLA/ZAIRE RELATIONS:
CHAD; SHABA

REF: BRAZZAVILLE 1092 NOTAL

1. DURING MEETING WITH CHARGE AUGUST 7 (REFTEL), PRESIDENT YHOMBY-OPANGO SAID THAT WHILE HE HAD BEEN PLEASED WITH HIS ABILITY TO GET ZAIRE AND ANGOLA TOGETHER, HE WAS WORRIED NOW ABOUT THE WAY THINGS WERE GOING. HE IS SENDING MILITARY COMMITTEE MEMBER NGOLLO, WHO PRESIDED AT MEDIATION SESSIONS HERE, TO LUANDA, AUGUST 10, TO ENCOURAGE ANGOLANS TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON THEIR COMMITMENTS AND NOT TO REOPEN QUARRELS OVER MEMBERSHIP OF VERIFICATION COMMITTEE (BRAZZAVILLE 1085 NOTAL). ADDITIONALLY, HE HAD ASKED CONGOLESE AMBASSADOR IN KINSHASA TO CALL ON MOBUTU TO SAY THAT RUMORED NOMINATION OF ZAIRE SECURITY CHIEF SETI AS AMBASSADOR TO ANGOLA WOULD BE A "GRAVE ERROR." SETI'S OPTIC WAS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR INCUMBENT OF SUCH A DELICATE POSITION, AND HE WOULD SUGGEST THROUGH HIS AMBASSADOR ALTERNATIVES OF LOMPONDA OF LENGEMA. NOR
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WAS YHOMBY PLEASED WITH CREDENTIALS OF ZAIRE'S CHARGE IN LUANDA (ALSO BRAZZAVILLE 1085 NOTAL).

2. YHOMBY THEN TURNED TO QUESTION OF CABINDA. HE SAID THAT HE WAS WAITING FOR ANGOLA TO BECOME STRONGER PRIOR TO GOING TO NETO, AND POINTING OUT TO HIM THAT CONGO HAD BEEN VERY HELPFUL TO MPLA BEFORE AND

AFTER INDEPENDENCE, AND THAT PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF
NUMBER OF CONGOLESE IN CABINDA AND ITS SEPARATE
GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION, A "POLITICAL SOLUTION" SHOULD BE
FOUND CONCERNING STATUS OF ENCLAVE. HE ADDED THAT
ANGOLANS ARE CLEARLY NOT IN CONTROL OF THE TERRITORY.
BEYOND CABINDA TOWN, WHERE CUBANS ARE PROTECTING
GULF. FURTHER, SAID YHOMBY, ANGOLANS HAVE ENOUGH
PROBLEMS ALREADY WITHOUT CABINDA. THIS WAS FIRST TIME
YHOMBY HAD DISCUSSED THIS ASPECT OF CABINDA WITH CHARGE,
AND WE WERE PARTICULARLY STRUCK BY HIS FRANKNESS
CONCERNING CONGOLESE TERRITORIAL INTERESTS IN CABINDA.
CHARGE MADE NO COMMENT.

3. DRAWING ON THIS, YHOMBY SAID THAT CHAD IS ANOTHER
AREA WHERE A "POLITICAL SOLUTION" IS NEEDED, RATHER
THAN A MILITARY ONE. HE NOTED THAT HE HAD TOLD
DEPARTING FRENCH AMBASSADOR DUFOURCQ EARLIER THAT THE
FRENCH CANNOT EXPECT TO HAVE THEIR TROOPS STAY FOREVER
IN A COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY TO REGULATE A PROBLEM WHICH
IS NOT MILITARY AT ALL. YHOMBY PROPOSED, OVERLY
SIMPLISTICALLY, THAT PROBLEM COULD BE REGULATED FAIRLY
EASILY WERE CHAD'S LEADERSHIP TO CHANGE TO MUFTI.

4. CONTINUING ON THIS DISCUSSION OF TROOPS, YHOMBY
TURNED TO QUESTION OF "PAN-AFRICAN PEACE FORCE."
HE TOLD CHARGE AGAIN VERY FRANKLY, THAT HIS GREATEST FEAR
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ABOUT THE FRENCH PRESENCE IN SHABA HAD BEEN THAT "SOCIALIST"
COMRADES" WOULD ENCOURAGE CONGOLESE TO INVITE A COUNTER-
VAILING FORCE TO CONGO, A POSSIBILITY WHICH YHOMBY
SAID HE CLEARLY DID NOT WANT (BRAZZAVILLE 752 NOTAL).
HE VOLUNTEERED THAT "OTHERS" IN THE MILITARY COMMITTEE,
HOWEVER, HAD THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD IDEA, AND HE HAD HAD TO
BUCK A FAIR AMOUNT OF PRESSURE. BUT, HE COMMENTED,
"WHO NEEDS 10 THOUSAND SOVIETS
AND 40 THOUSAND CUBANS RUNNING AROUND THE CONGO?"
KATZEN

SECRET

NNN

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